

with the Nene, Ouse, East Anglian and Essex streams, concluding with the Northern tributaries of the Thames. An admirable record, which cannot but be of permanent value.

W.H.W.

#### ADDRESSES AND EXCURSIONS.

“Derbyshire Bridges,” by Mr. E. Jervoise.

On the completion of the business programme at the Annual Meeting (29th Jan., 1932), Mr. E. Jervoise, A.M.Inst.C.E. gave an address on the ancient bridges of Derbyshire and its borders, comprising part of the material collected for his forthcoming volume on “The Ancient Bridges of Mid. and Eastern England,” subsequently issued, and reviewed elsewhere in this *Journal*. He told his audience his survey was made for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and in a very light car which could penetrate narrow lanes and field tracks he and his wife had travelled some 14,000 miles in its pursuit, and inspected over 4,000 bridges. This had happily resulted in the scheduling of 180 examples as Ancient Monuments. For their history he had consulted Patent Rolls, Leland’s “Itinerary,” Calendars of Wills, Indulgences, and from Elizabethan times Records of Quarter Sessions, twelve pages of those for Derbyshire, edited by Dr. Cox having proved very useful. His guides were the excellent eighteenth century large scale maps issued between 1750 and 1790, every road crossing shown thereon being examined. He said dating a bridge of any considerable age involved much detective work, generally speaking the presence of ribs under the arches was a trustworthy indication of medieval date [Cavendish bridge is an exception], the arches might be round, segmental or pointed and here again early features might survive very late.

Beginning with the Trent as it concerned our district Burton with its old bridge of thirty-four or more arches, known to have existed in the twelfth century was mentioned merely to note it was removed in 1864. Swarkeston retains much of its older work in the south arches; pointed in shape with eight chamfered ribs. In the Derby Charter of 1204, it is referred to as Cordy bridge which Mr. F. Williamson thinks may suggest a timber structure (i.e. a "corduroy" tread). Named in 1275, there are pontages in 1327, 1338, 1347 and 1355 [suggesting probable extensive building or rebuilding in stone?] Other repairs were noted and the existence of five arches over the main channel in 1745. This portion was being rebuilt in 1802, no doubt the old structure had gone down before the tremendous floods of 1795. Cavendish bridge at Shardlow replaced a ferry in 1758 and is remarkable in its ribbed arches at so late a date. It was built by Sir Matthew Lamb (grandfather of Queen Victoria's Lord Melbourne) and named as a compliment to our great ducal house. Nottingham Trent bridge, famous historically like Burton was swept away in 1871. There had been a crossing here from Anglo-Saxon days. It may be worth special note that a portion crossing the river Leen, called Cheneybridge was normally closed by a chain, and only open when floods made the fords impassable.

Mr. Jervoise specifically disclaims any intention to inventory foot and pack bridges and hence begins his survey of the Derwent watershed with Cocksbridge (Ashop) at Ashopton, originally a narrow packbridge (17th century?) subsequently widened. Yorkshire bridge was a timber structure until 1695 when Quarter Sessions ordered it to be rebuilt with "three Turned Arches," segmental with bold semi-cylindrical cutwaters. Mytham bridge was not mentioned, the next being Lead Mills Bridge (Hathersage) practically rebuilt in 1925 and almost washed away about four years later. In 1708 it replaced

the dangerous Hazelford whose name it long bore. There was a bridge at "Gryndulforde" in 1407, and in 1706-7 extensive repairs were undertaken. The present fine structure seems to be late eighteenth century. Froggatt is an exceptionally fine bridge with a very late (1706?) pointed central arch between two round ones. It once carried the main Froggatt Edge road to Sheffield now passing over New Bridge (1781) a mile lower. Calver bridge, important in Edward IV's reign, is modern and was not named but the authorities were complimented on saving Baslow old bridge, narrow with three tall semi-circular, six-ribbed arches. Chatsworth bridge is dated 1760 (or according to Mr. J. H. B. Ward, 1773), while the charming one-arch structure by the Beeley lodge is ribbed and put as late 16th century. That at Rowsley seems to be medieval, of five semicircular ribbed arches widened in 1926. Here the Wye comes in and the pretty bridges—seventeenth (1664) and eighteenth century—of Ashford were noted. Bakewell is of massive proportions, pointed and ribbed. History lacking. Fillyford bridge below Haddon is late eighteenth century and Alport bridge over the Lathkil is dated 1793, replacing one of c. 1720 over an old much used ford. Darley and Matlock bridges were both important crossings, each contains a nucleus of medieval date. Cromford may be about 1500 and is named by Leland. Mr. Jervoise told the story of the building about 1390 of a bridge where none was before, near Walter Stonewell's house. If this survived to the great flood of 1795 it was then washed away as was Belper bridge, their replacements doing duty to the present. Duffield bridge until 1803 was a mere pack bridge, vehicles crossing by the ford. It has an ancient nucleus. He thought it may have been timber in 1403 when certain oaks were granted from the forest for its repair, but this does not necessarily follow as a similar grant was made in 1603. The important dates concerned with St. Mary's

bridge were given, but need not be repeated here last year's *Journal* having dealt in detail with them. He reminded his hearers of the numerous streams and crossings of the borough, four of stone and six of timber. In dealing with the river Dove the speaker noted a fine massive Staffordshire type as he named it with high semi-circular arches and road-level string courses between 1750 and 1775. Fine examples are those of Caldwell carrying an ancient (widened) highway, now entirely deserted, and the one arch Okeover bridge, possibly a little later. The pretty crossing of Bentley brook approaching Mapleton seems to date from about 1720. That near Sandybrook Hall (recently widened) may be later in the same century. Hanging bridge by Mayfield is a fine medieval bridge repeatedly widened, the last time quite recently. Uttoxeter (Dovebridge) had a bridge at the Domesday inquest, it still contains medieval arches combined with extensive repairs of 1691. It was efficiently widened in 1915. Sudbury and Tutbury (an ancient crossing) were passed over, Monk's Bridge (near Burton) being the last dealt with. It is of four segmental arches each with three chamfered ribs. John Stretton of Burton Abbey rebuilt it at his own cost in 1290, but the speaker did not think that anything earlier than c. 1400 survives.

#### 1st Excursion.

The opening excursion of the season was made on the 1st of June, Brigadier-General Meynell being in charge as leader and chairman, here and in each of the events subsequently recorded. A large party of members, to which attendance was restricted, assembled at Sudbury Hall by invitation and were received and welcomed by Lord and Lady Vernon—a special privilege—the Hall not being normally accessible to strangers.

Lord Vernon very kindly guided the party himself, explaining the points and record of this fine historic seat,

giving the results of his recent personal investigations into the family archives and accounts. Definite record of the beginning of the fabric was lacking, he said, documentary indications suggest construction was proceeding, with considerable interruptions, from 1620 to 1639, this period probably covering the picturesque exterior—usually given an earlier date. During the Commonwealth it remained a mere shell, the George Vernon of the period proceeding vigorously with its completion after the Restoration, the fine woodwork, noteworthy plaster ceilings, etc., belonging to his time. Much of this fine work dating from about 1675 to 1690, was, Lord Vernon had learned from the accounts, by local craftsmen, but there was a famous festoon of flowers, birds, fish, etc., carved in wood by Grinling Gibbons for which £40 was paid. The party was then conducted over the house, the dining room, drawing rooms, state bedroom and beautiful “long gallery”—some 148 feet in length—containing the famous library and many precious art objects, including a fine collection of portraits claiming special attention.

General Meynell having thanked the kind host and hostess on the company's behalf, Cubley church was then visited, where the rector indicated the points of interest. Norman nave arcade, thirteenth century (lancet) chancel with its curious arch, rude early masonry, with megalithic quoins, ancient altar slab and fourteenth century glass fragments. The late tower with armorial shields and the mutilated Montgomery effigies (1435 and 1494) also were noted.

Thence Bentley Hall (Hungry Bentley, presumably because of its “hungry” soil) was visited. A de Ferrars holding it passed to Blounts lords Montjoy, Bentleys of Bentley succeeding (finishing with a conviction for High Treason in 1586), and then Brownes to whom we owe the present picturesque structure for I noted a Browne blazon on the picturesque Jacobean plaster, which with

good wood carving still survives. The estate was then acquired by a Wilmot of Derby. An ambitious remodeling in early Georgian times happily was not completed and so the earlier building remains in great part. Special thanks are due to the hostess who put no restrictions on the party's wanderings.

After lunch a move was made by damp and devious ways to Stydd, a Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers (Knights of St. John) where the walls of the small aisleless chapel with lancet openings remain, the tomb cover of a thirteenth century knight and a ruined font the presence of which needs explaining. Canon Farmer read a paper on the Hospitallers and the remains.

The excursion was completed by crossing the county border to visit the beautiful remains of Croxden Abbey by Rocester. Here was a Cistercian House, worthy comparison with the great Yorkshire settlements, founded by Bertram de Verdun in 1176, at Chotes, probably "cots," a settlement of simple shepherds, or servii, in the district, and transferred to its present site in 1179, where construction proceeded until 1254 when it was formally dedicated. Its fame must have been established much earlier, however, as King John (died 1216) decreed that his heart be buried there. These monks and their lay *conversi* were active sheep farmers and flourished greatly on their wool exports, until the French wars of Edward I interrupted the traffic, and the stately erection of which we have still these impressive remains was no doubt a result of this revenue. The severely plain but dignified "lancet" west front, part of the south transept and of the exceptional apsidal choir, with extensive walling of the domestic offices still remain and across the road which traverses the ruins are further slight remains of the apsidal choir and some coffins supposed to have held the mortal parts of the founder's family. A concise sketch of the historic points involved was given by the late incumbent

of Croxden, the Rev. Ernest Deacon, rector of Weeford, who together with the courteous occupants of the abbey house were thanked by the Chairman for their services.

#### 2nd Excursion.

On the 10th June a second excursion took place; Norbury, Wootton Lodge, Ashbourne Grammar School and Dr. Sadler's charming house opposite being visited. Mr. Cuthbert Fitzherbert journeyed some 160 miles, returning forthwith, to tell a large gathering something about the ancient seat and family of the Fitzherberts of Norbury and it was worth noting that he and the chairman represented two of the three oldest stems in the county. He said it was worth noting that in the beautiful church practically nothing had been altered since the tower and south chapels were erected in the fifteenth century. Of the Norman period a few stones might survive incorporated in the fabric and of an earlier period the two beautiful cross-fragments were fine memorials. Under the uncommon wavy parapet, evidence may be seen of the raising of the chancel walls when the roof was flattened. Inside the church as standing, is of c. 1360 and later. Roger Fitzherbert, the rector, died of the plague (Black Death) in 1349, his successor Walter Fitzherbert, refusing for the time being to take up duty assumed, however, later and carried on until 1390 when he is said to have resigned in favour of Henry de Kniveton.<sup>1</sup> It was this Walter who rebuilt the beautiful chancel, apparently from c. 1360 onwards, a grand example of late "decorated" the exceptionally graceful spacious windows still retaining their contemporary glass of richly bordered grisaille with brilliant heraldic blazons of Lancastrian heraldry, only two, however, representing Derbyshire families. A little before 1473 the roof was flattened, north aisle, S.E. chapel

<sup>1</sup> As bearing on this statement see ante p. 33, where Thomas de Kniveton is shown to be 'parson of Norbury in 1391.'

and clerestory with glass added by Nicholas Fitzherbert, the rector then being Henry Prince, while his grandson John probably finished the tower and S.W. chapel. The original glass from the east window was disposed of early in the nineteenth century, the present glass in the still beautiful eastern lights being collected from the aisle windows and clerestory and of a century later than the original work. Early incised memorials exist, but the oldest effigy represents Sir Henry Fitzherbert, ob. c. 1310. The two table tombs are in style practically identical and Mr. Fitzherbert suggested they were set up after 1490, the work of Nottingham (or Burton) "imagers."

Dealing with the history of the family the speaker noted John Fitzherbert's dislike of his wife "Bennet" (Benedicta, neé Bradbourn) and his will leaving the estate to his brother, the famous judge and author, Sir Anthony, who succeeded in 1531 dying 1538, and in whose line it continued, but in the third generation passed to a descendant of a younger son who had married the heiress of Swinnerton, from which time 1649, Norbury ceased to be the family seat. The hall which retains fragments of the fourteenth century fabric, with fine Tudor panelling and late domestic glass was inspected under Mr. Fitzherbert's guidance and the speaker having been thanked heartily the party then went forward to Wootton Lodge.

Here they were received by Captain Unwin, R.N., V.C., on the terrace of his beautiful home, a structure which with its exquisite setting suggests some creation of old romance. It was raised by a Fleetwood from about 1615 and was attacked in the Civil Wars by the Parliamentary forces (1643) and taken, and the owner—with a highwayman's reputation—with his garrison carried to Derby in chains, but soon liberated. A breezy old seadog, a Captain Wheeler about 1700 brought the property into the present owner's family and seems to have had a very poor opinion of women folk. The structure at this time underwent a



considerable overhauling, the inappropriate open parapet and riot of chimneys being added, spoiling the building's skyline. But the beautiful internal woodwork and panelling is on the credit side of the reconstruction. The party having been shown over the house and grounds and the usual thanks tendered by General Meynell, a departure was made for Ashbourne through the delightful Weaver country.

At Ashbourne Dr. Sadler and Major Ball kindly entertained the company to tea in the main hall of the Elizabethan Grammar School, after which Major Ball gave a history of the Foundation. Thence the company crossed the way to the historic "Mansion," where Dr. Samuel Johnson often visited his friend Dr. Taylor. The old house which faces on the garden was raised in 1684, the interior being decorated and panelled about 1700. The main hall towards the street entrance, with its fireplace, pillared staircase and beautiful plasterwork is the work of the brothers Adam, during or soon after their work at Kedleston, bearing in full the characteristic refinement of their decoration. The charming garden still goes down to the brook course which Dr. Johnson in his 1777 visit found undersirably choked with dead cats, etc. which Boswell helped him to tumble over the fall. Here ended a specially beautiful excursion.

### 3rd Excursion.

The third and last excursion of the season was made to Brookhill Hall by Pinxton, Hardwick Hall and Bolsover Castle on the 27th July, the attendance as with its two predecessors being large and enthusiastic. Brookhill Hall is an Elizabethan structure with extensive additions by the Adam brothers c. 1760, situated in a small park of fine old timber, decorative shrubberies and ornamental waters, the home of Mrs. Sacheverell-Coke who received the company, kindly acting as historian and guide. This

home of an ancient Derbyshire family is a perfect treasury of rare and beautiful old furniture from Tudor to late Georgian times, noble panelling and abundant tapestries, mainly c. 1600, though with examples a century earlier. There is also a particularly interesting collection of family deeds, including a transfer (1564) of the estate to Richard Coke, set out for the company's inspection. The fine collection of pictures made strong claims on the interest of the visitors; a portrait of Lord Byron's Mary Chaworth; a number of portraits by "Wright of Derby" notably a "conversation" piece of Daniel Parker Coke and d'Ewes Coke, the founder of the Pinxton china works where the famous Billingsley was a partner and chief artist, having special attention. The work of local craftsmen in some 1630 tables here supports Lord Vernon's good opinion of the traditional craft competence of the period.

After lunch Hardwick Hall was visited where the Duke of Devonshire's Librarian kindly put his studies at the company's service. The building, he said, was the first of its kind, the plan probably supervised by the autocratic and competent "Bess of Hardwick" herself. It was copied in part from the Old Hall opposite where its owner was born, which in 1585 she started to expand, raising the lofty and extensive additions on the long sides of the "hall," so that that feature instead of being parallel became at right angles to the frontage, setting a new fashion for the planning of the later hall. The new Hall was begun in 1591, the shell completed in 1593 and the fittings carried forward so that occupation was made by 1597.

Mr. Gotch told us in 1914 the work on the expansion of the "Old" Hall was so little earlier than on the later one that the workmen merely passed from the one to the other. The large and elaborate chimney pieces are a noteworthy feature of the building, the materials largely local, black marbles from Ashford (or Sheldon Moor), alabasters from

Tutbury or Gotham, and encrinitic limestones from the district. Robert Smithson seems to have been the "master-mason" or architect, very much under the direction of "Bess." Abraham Smith worked out the fine figured plaster friezes and Thomas Akers executed the elaborate decorative and figure carving in alabaster. One chimney piece brought from old Chatsworth is specially noteworthy, an allegorical group of the Elizabethan period by Maximilian Choate. The collections of tapestry are the finest in any private English possession and our space does not permit of their description of which good accounts are available. Something similar might be said of the splendid series of historic portraits, most famous that of Queen Mary Stuart, and only a little less so that of Arabella Stuart, for a time heir to the throne (grand-daughter of the builder of Hardwick) with a Queen Elizabeth at the end of the "Long Gallery," probably, the speaker said, by Richard Stevens, a painter and sculptor of her day. A reputed Queen Elizabeth on the long wall really represents Mary Cavendish wife of Gilbert, son and successor of the harried, unfortunate jailor of Mary Stuart, George, 6th earl of Shrewsbury. The so-called room of Queen Mary probably was fitted up for Arabella Stuart c. 1599.

The last place visited was Bolsover Castle, Mr. Needham, the Duke of Portland's librarian from Welbeck Abbey kindly acting as guide. This estate, originally a royal holding, passed in 1554 to the earl of Shrewsbury, his son Gilbert, the seventh earl, transferring it to his brother-in-law Sir Charles Cavendish who in 1612 began the present structure on the old ruins, of which the only remains is an arch in the wall. Sir Charles's son was the first earl and duke of Newcastle and he carried on the work, his his architects being John and Huntingdon Smithson, father and son. The famous "galleria" finely engraved in the Duke's folio on Horsemanship was stripped and

ruined within a century of its erection, but the rebuilt cylindrical "keep" was still occupied as the vicarage until the eighteen eighties. Here also the fireplaces of local stones—magnesian limestone, Derbyshire marbles and alabasters—are noteworthy as perhaps also are the curious and rather crude paintings and panelling.

#### DERBYSHIRE PRE-CONQUEST CARVED STONES.

By T. E. Routh.

On the 2nd December, Mr. T. E. Routh addressed a well attended meeting at the Assembly Rooms, Brigadier-General Meynell, C.M.G., in the chair, on the Derbyshire pre-Conquest carved stones and the places they occupy in the sequence of Northern Anglian decorative work," to set the title out in full.

Mr. Routh evidently has acquainted himself with all of authority that has been published on the subject and has applied this knowledge most efficiently to our local examples.

He opened by setting these examples in their place in the long sequence of Anglian art from the seventh to the eleventh century. Space forbids details of his discussion of the past dating controversies of this art and we will accept the seventh century beginnings posited by Professors Bronsted, Baldwin Brown, etc., and anticipated nearly half a century ago by Bishop G. F. Browne, whose early studies of our local examples were dealt with in our *Journal*.

"The Seventh century is the meridian of Northumberland's glory . . . . Edwin had accepted baptism in 627 from Rome, and it was the introduction of Christianity from the south that brought new culture, new civilization, new art." The far travelled churchmen Wilfred and Benedict Biscop and the wide influence of Theodore of Tarsus and Abbot Adrian, bringing art and scholarship